Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

for Landscape and Public Realm Framework, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

prepared for Dermot Foley Landscape Architects

on behalf of South Dublin County Council

Project No.	Rev.	Author	Reviewed By	Approved By	Issue Date
190206	I3	EV	KMOC	AS	08/07/2020

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Table of Contents

Appendix I

The qualifying interests (QIs) and special conservation interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (see

1 Introduction

This report, which contains information required for the competent authority (in this instance South Dublin County Council) to undertake a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), has been prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the applicant. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed development to impact on the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European sites)[1]. The proposed development consists of the creation of a public realm in Tallaght, Dublin 24, which will comprise new primary and smaller secondary urban spaces, including corridors of green infrastructure.

An AA is required if likely significant effects on European sites arising from a proposed development cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is the responsibility of the competent authority to make a decision as to whether or not the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For the reasons set out in detail in this AA Screening Report, an **Appropriate Assessment of the proposed development is not required in this instance** as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

2 Methodology

2.1 Guidance

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, as relevant:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2001);
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle* (European Commission, 2000); and,
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2019).

[1] The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

2.2 Assessment Methodology

The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the potential for effects on the conservation objectives of European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects (i.e. likely significant effects).

Significant effects on a European site are those that would undermine the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and/or the QI/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of a European site(s).

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following steps:

Determining whether the proposed development is directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of, any European site(s)

Describing the details of the proposed development

Describing the receiving environment

Assessment of likely significant effects on European sites

Identifying the potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment

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Defining the zone of influence of the proposed development on the receiving environment

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Identifying the European site(s) within the zone of influence of the proposed development

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Assessing whether the potential impacts associated with the proposed development will undermine the conservation objectives of any European site(s), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects

Conclusions of screening assessment process

If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

In establishing which European sites are potentially at risk (in the absence of mitigation) from the proposed development, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)[2]), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur.

The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the proposed development and European sites essentially is the process of identifying which European sites are within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed development, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The ZoI is the area over which the proposed development could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives[3].

The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle[4] is applied.

2.3 Desktop Data Review

The desktop data sources used to inform the assessment presented in this report are as follows (accessed on the 13th May 2020):

- Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie, including conservation objectives documents
- Online data available on protected species as held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) from www.biodiversityireland.ie
- Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie
- Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from www.epa.ie and www.gsi.ie
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie

[2] The term qualifying interest is used when referring to the habitats or species for which an SAC is designated; the term special conservation interest is used when referring to the bird species (or wetland habitats) for which an SPA is designated.

[3] As defined in the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (CIEEM, 2018)

[4] The precautionary principle is a guiding principle that derives from Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and has been developed in the case law of the European Court of Justice (e.g. ECJ case C-127/02 – Waddenzee, Netherlands).

The guidance document *Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle* (European Commission, 2000) notes that the precautionary principle "*covers those specific circumstances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and there are indications through preliminary objective scientific evaluation that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the chosen level of protection*".

Applying the precautionary principle in the context of screening for appropriate assessment requires that where there is uncertainty or doubt about the risk of significant effects on a European site(s), it should be assumed that significant effects are possible and AA must be carried out.

- Information on the location, nature and design of the proposed development supplied by the applicant's design team.
- *Tallaght Public Realm Biodiversity Concept Report, Tallaght, Dublin 24* (Scott Cawley Ltd., 2020)

2.4 Baseline Surveys

This section describes the ecological surveys carried out to inform the assessment of likely significant effects on European sites.

2.4.1 Habitats and Flora Survey

A walkover survey of the lands was undertaken by Laura Higgins of Scott Cawley on the 6th March 2020. All habitats were classified using *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*[5], recording dominant species, indicator species and/or species of conservation interest; with the Fossitt category codes given in parentheses. Vascular plant nomenclature generally follows the *BSBI's Shortlist of Accepted Plant Names*[6]. The habitat and flora survey included checks for the presence of invasive species listed on the Third Schedule of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011*. The survey also included an assessment of whether any habitats in the lands corresponded to habitats listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, as they are described in the *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats* (European Commission, 2013).

2.4.2 Fauna Surveys

Signs of fauna were recorded concurrent with the completion of the site walkover survey on the 6th March 2020, and involved the identification of tracks, prints, droppings and/or carcasses (if present).

2.4.3 Limitations of Surveys

The habitat survey was carried out outside of the optimum survey period for identifying flowering plants, including non-native invasive plant species. However, given the urban nature of the proposed development site and the surveyor's ability to identify plant species present by their vegetative features, the timing of this survey has not affected the findings of this report.

3 Provision of Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The following sections provide information to facilitate the Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed development to be undertaken by the competent authority.

A description of the proposed development and the receiving environment is provided to identify the potential ecological impacts. The environmental baseline conditions are discussed, as relevant to the assessment of ecological impacts where they may highlight potential pathways for impacts associated with the proposed development to affect the receiving ecological environment.

The potential impacts are examined in order to define the potential zone of influence of the proposed development on the receiving environment. This then informs the assessment of whether the proposed development will result in likely significant effects on any European sites; i.e. affect the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the European site's QIs or SCIs.

[5] Fossitt, J.A. (2000) *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*. Heritage Council.

[6] BSBI (2007). *BSBI's Shortlist of Accepted Plant Names*. Available to download from www.bsbi.org. Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

3.1 Description of the Proposed Development

Public realm works totalling approximately 1.2ha to include proposed new public space at Innovation Square, proposed Pedestrian Crossing on Belgard Cookstown Link Street; proposed new Belgard Square North/Airton East West Pedestrian Link Street; Pedestrian crossings at Belgard Square North and Belgard Cookstown Link Street, redevelopment of County Hall Pedestrian Link; redevelopment and reprofiling of levels within Chamber Square. Proposed works to include the reconfiguration of existing County Council carpark including widening of County Hall Pedestrian Link with additional planting, seating and relocation of wheelchair accessible parking spaces, a new pedestrian crossing and associated amendments to the carpark. Proposed works to include a new advertising totem in Innovation Square extending to a maximum height of 2.4m x 1.5m.

Proposed works to include all ancillary site development and landscaping works, including public lighting, play equipment, furniture and sports equipment, cycle parking, seating, pathways, planting, surface water drainage and boundaries.

There is no requirement for foul water drainage, as no foul water will be produced on site. A proposed surface water drainage system will run in southwardly direction across the proposed development site into proposed attenuation tanks, before joining the pre-existing surface water drainage network at the southern boundary. This surface water network will discharge into the Whitestown stream, a tributary of the River Dodder, to the south of the N81. The proposed development will include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including two attenuation tanks, permeable paving, swales and rain gardens to reduce surface water flow.

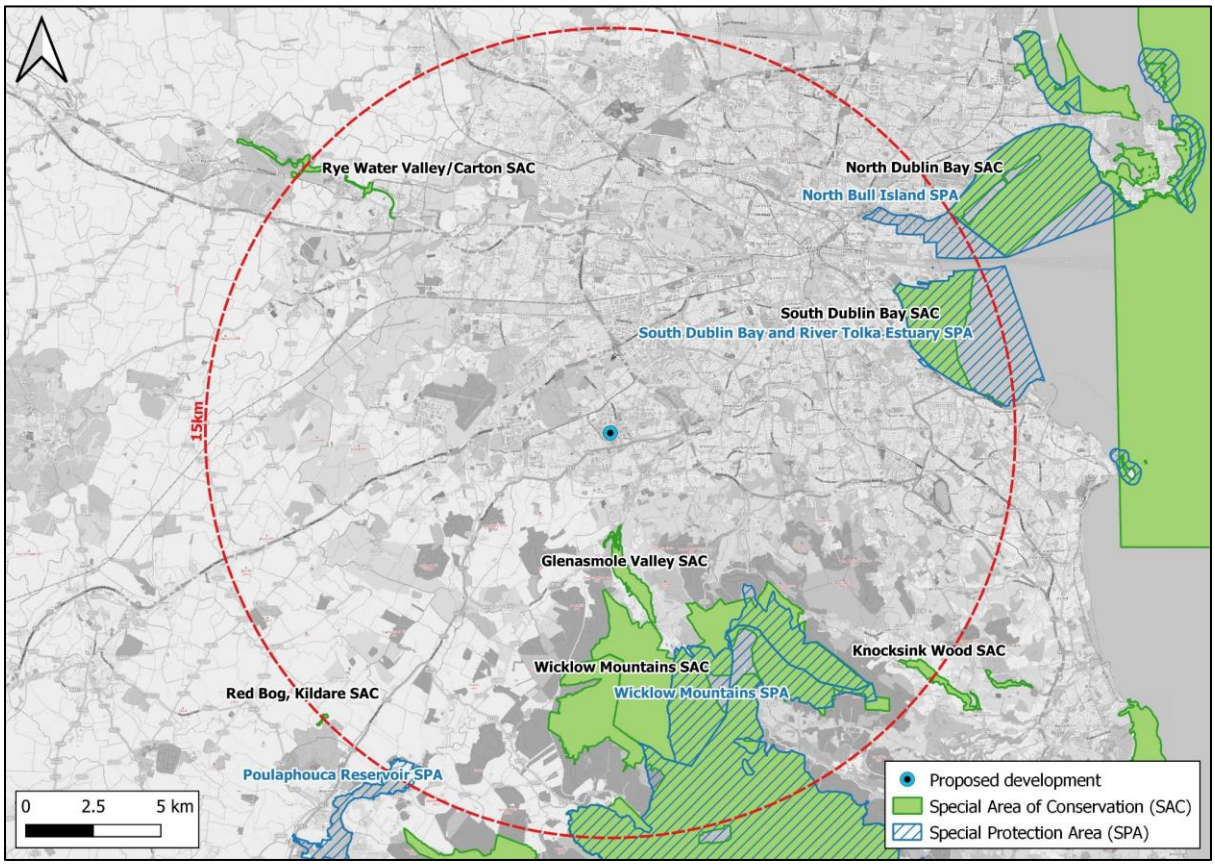
3.2 Overview of the Receiving Environment

3.2.1 *European sites*

There are 11 European sites located within *c.* 15km of the proposed development. The proposed development does not overlap with any European sites. The nearest European site is Glenasmole Valley SAC, located *c.* 3.6km to the south of the proposed development site in the Dublin Mountains.

All of the European sites present in the vicinity of the proposed development are shown on **Figure 1**, overleaf. The QIs/SCIs of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development are provided in Appendix I.

Figure 1 European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development



3.2.2 Habitats

The Tallaght Public Realm is located within Tallaght Town Centre, an urbanised area. As such, the majority of habitats within the proposed development site and immediately surrounding area are comprised of artificial surfaces or small, highly managed areas of green space. A large proportion of the Tallaght Public Realm was an active construction site at the time of survey. The following habitat types (and mosaics of these), assigned using the Heritage Council classification system[5], were identified within the proposed development site and immediately surrounding area:

- Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)
- Spoil and bare ground (ED2)
- Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)
- Flower beds and borders (BC4)
- Scrub (WS1)
- Amenity grassland (GA2)
- Treelines (WL2)
- Immature woodland (WS2)
- Ornamental/ non-native shrub (WS3)

At the time of survey, the active construction site was a mosaic of habitats, largely comprised of spoil and bare ground (ED2) with some areas of buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3), dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) and encroaching scrub (WS1).

There are no Annex I habitats present within the proposed development site or immediate environs. Overall, the habitats found onsite have limited ecological value. The habitat types are described in greater detail in the *Tallaght Public Realm Biodiversity Concept report* (Scott Cawley Ltd., 2020).

3.2.3 Flora and Fauna Species

There were no records for protected and/or rare plant species within *c.* 2km of the proposed development site on the NBDC database.

No records for any QI species of European sites were returned. The desktop study found records for one SCI bird species, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, for which European sites within *c.* 15km are designated. There are *c.* 77 records for black-headed gull within *c.* 2km of the proposed development. The most recent record for the species is from Sean Walsh Memorial Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24, located *c.* 400m to the south of the proposed development, from 2017.

There is no suitable habitat for light-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota* onsite. Light-bellied Brent geese regularly use Dublin's amenity parks and sports grounds for foraging. The nearest known light-bellied Brent goose site is *c.* 2.1km east and north-east of the proposed development site (Scott Cawley Ltd., 2017[7]). Given that there is no suitable foraging habitat, i.e. open amenity grassland onsite, the proposed development site is considered unsuitable for light-bellied Brent goose.

With regards to non-native invasive species, the NBDC database search returned records for three-cornered garlic *Allium triquetrum* which is listed on the Third Schedule of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011.* The species was recorded in Sean Walsh Memorial Park, *c.* 500m south of the proposed development in 2019.

There were no QI species present onsite. The only SCI species present at the time of field surveys was black-headed gull. One individual was recorded roosting on a rooftop of a building to the north-east of the site.

No Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species were recorded in the proposed development site. There were no species listed on the Third Schedule of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011* present onsite, however, two non-scheduled non-native invasive species, butterfly-bush *Buddleja davidii* and old man's beard *Clematis vitalba*, were recorded within the proposed development site boundary.

3.2.4 Hydrology

There are no surface water features located within or adjacent to the proposed development site.

The site is located within the Dodder sub-catchment in the Liffey and Dublin Bay catchment. The northern section of the site is contained within the Poddle sub-basin, whereas the southern section is within the Dodder sub-basin. Both of these sub-basins drain to Dublin Bay.

The nearest stream, Whitestown stream, located *c.* 660m south of the proposed development site has a '*Poor*' WFD status is and is listed as '*At risk*' waterbody by the EPA. The stream joins the River Dodder *c.* 2.3km east and the Lower Liffey Estuary *c.* 15.2km north-east, before flowing into Dublin Bay *c.* 18km downstream from its nearest point to the proposed development site. The River Dodder has a '*Moderate*' WFD status and the Lower Liffey Estuary waterbody has a '*Good*' WFD status. Both of these waterbodies are listed as '*At risk*' by the EPA. The Dublin Bay is considered to be '*Unpolluted*' with a 'Good' WFD status and belongs to the '*Not at risk*' category.

[7] Scott Cawley (2017). *Natura Impact Statement- Information for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. Proposed Residential Development, St. Paul's College, Sybil Hill Road, Raheny, Dublin 5*

3.2.5 Hydrogeology

Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) data indicates that the site is underlain by a Locally Important Bedrock Aquifer (Ll), which is moderately productive only in local zones. The site is located in an area of '*Moderate*' vulnerability in relation to the underlying aquifer.

The Groundwater Body (GWB) underlying the site is the Dublin GWB, which is currently classified by the EPA as having '*Good Status*' and '*Not at risk*'. The Dublin GWB overlaps only one European site with groundwater dependent terrestrial habitats, Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC, *c.* 11km northwest of the proposed development site.

3.3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

This section identifies the potential impacts associated with the proposed development, examines whether there are any European sites within the ZoI of effects from the proposed development, and assesses whether there is any risk of the proposed development resulting in a likely significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a likely significant effect on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

3.3.1 Habitat loss and fragmentation

The proposed development does not overlap with the boundary of any European site. Therefore, there are no European sites at risk of direct habitat loss impacts.

As the proposed development does not traverse any European sites there is no potential for habitat fragmentation to occur.

The proposed development site does not support populations of any fauna species linked with the QI/SCI populations of any European site(s).

As the proposed development will not result in habitat loss or habitat fragmentation within any European site, there is no potential for any in combination effects to occur in that regard.

3.3.2 Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts

Surface water run-off and discharges from the proposed development will drain to the existing local surface water drainage network.

Surface Water

Surface water run-off and discharges from the proposed development will enter the downstream receiving environment via the existing surface water drainage network. The proposed development includes Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within its design to ensure compliance with the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy. The proposed SuDS are not intended as measures to specifically avoid or reduce potential effects on European sites.

Considering the following, the proposed development will not have any measurable effects on water quality in Dublin Bay or the Irish Sea:

- the scale and location of the proposed development relative to the receiving surface water network;
- the relatively low volume of any surface water run-off or discharge events relative to the receiving surface water and marine environments; and
- the level of mixing, dilution and dispersion of any surface water run-off/discharges in the receiving watercourses, Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea.

It is an objective of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, and the *South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022*, to incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within new developments.

Therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed development undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of surface water run-off or discharges.

Foul Water

There will be no foul water originating from the proposed development, and therefore, there is no possibility of the proposed development undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of foul water discharges.

In Combination

There is potential for "*in-combination*" effects on water quality in Dublin Bay from any other projects carried out within the functional areas of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022* (Dublin City Council, 2016), the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022* (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2016), the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* (Fingal County Council, 2017), *South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022* (South Dublin County Council, 2016), or any other county level land use plans which can influence conditions in Dublin Bay via rivers and other surface water features.

Dublin Bay is currently unpolluted, and the proposed development will not result in any measurable effect on water quality in Dublin Bay. There are also protective policies and objectives in place at a strategic planning level to protect water quality in Dublin Bay.

Therefore, there is no possibility of any other plans or projects acting in combination with the proposed development to undermine the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of water quality effects.

3.3.3 *Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts*

An accidental pollution event during construction has the potential to affect groundwater quality locally. Whilst this is a possibility, this would be very localised and is considered not likely to result in the degradation of existing groundwater conditions. Furthermore, there are no groundwater dependent habitats or species associated with the European sites in Dublin Bay.

The nearest European site, which supports groundwater dependent terrestrial habitats and species is Glenasmole Valley SAC, located c. 3.6km south of the proposed development, however, it is located in a different GWB than the proposed development site, and therefore there are no potential impacts due to a lack of pathway. The next nearest European site with groundwater dependent terrestrial habitats and with a potential pollution pathway is Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC, *c.* 11km northwest of the proposed development. This SAC is within the same GWB as the proposed development but is considered to be too distant for its groundwater level or flow to be affected by proposed construction works. Therefore, construction works are considered not to affect groundwater levels or flows in any European sites.

3.3.4 *Habitat degradation as a result of introducing/spreading non-native invasive species*

There are no species listed on the Third Schedule of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011* on the proposed development site. Two non-native invasive species were recorded within the proposed development site, and in the immediate surrounding area. The proposed development site is not hydrologically connected, or in close proximity to any European site, therefore, there is no risk of non-native invasive species spreading from the proposed development site to any European site.

3.3.5 Disturbance and displacement impacts

Construction-related disturbance and displacement of fauna species could potentially occur within the vicinity of the proposed development. For mammal species such as otter, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond 150m[8]. For birds, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond a distance of *c.* 300m, as noise levels associated with general construction activities would attenuate to close to background levels at that distance. There are no European sites within the disturbance ZoI; the next nearest European site to the proposed development is *c.* 3.6km away.

One SCI species, black-headed gull, was observed using the surrounding rooftops as roosting habitat. The nearest European sites designated for this species are South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and North Bull Island SPA, located *c.* 11.5km and *c.* 15km east of the proposed development site, respectively. Black-headed gulls are known to forage and roost in urban areas, and generally breed near freshwater bodies outside urban areas. The proposed development is likely to result in the temporary displacement of black-headed gulls from the proposed development site; however, considering the number of black-headed gulls recorded, one individual at this instance, and its location outside the proposed development site and the availability of similar habitat in the immediate environs of the proposed development site and in the wider locality to which they will be displaced to (*i.e.* rooftops), there is no potential for impacts on any black-headed gull populations of any European site in consideration of their conservation objectives. As the proposed development will not result in the disturbance/displacement of the qualifying/special conservation interest species of any European site, there is no potential for any in combination effects to occur in that regard.

3.3.6 Summary

The potential impacts associated with the proposed development do not have the potential to affect the receiving environment and, consequently, do not have the potential to affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interest/special conservation interests of any European sites. Therefore, the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites.

As the proposed development itself will not have any effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on any European sites.

The potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment, their ZoI, and the European sites at risk of likely significant effects are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Summary of Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on European sites

Potential Direct, Indirect in Combination Effects and the ZoI of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the ZoI of the proposed development?
Habitat loss Habitat loss will be confined to the lands within the proposed development boundary.	No There are no European sites within the proposed development boundary
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts Habitats and species downstream of the proposed development site and the associated surface water	No There are no European sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the proposed development

[8] This is consistent with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance (Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes and Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes) documents. This is a precautionary distance, and likely to be moderated by the screening effect provided by surrounding vegetation and buildings, with the actual ZoI of construction related disturbance likely to be much less in reality.

Potential Direct, Indirect in Combination Effects and the ZoI of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the ZoI of the proposed development?
drainage discharge points, and downstream of offsite wastewater treatment plants.	
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrogeological impacts Groundwater-dependant habitats, and the species those habitats support, in the local area that lie downgradient of the proposed development site.	No There are no European sites at risk of hydrogeological effects associated with the proposed development
Habitat degradation as a result of introducing/spreading non-native invasive species Habitat areas within, adjacent to, and potentially downstream of the proposed development site.	No There are no European sites at risk of spread/introduction of non-native invasive species
Disturbance and displacement impacts Potentially up to several hundred metres from the proposed development boundary, dependent upon the predicted levels of noise, vibration and visual disturbance associated with the proposed development, in conjunction with the sensitivity of the qualifying interest species to disturbance effects	No There are no European sites within the potential zone of influence of disturbance effects associated with the construction or operation of the proposed development

4 Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the project and its potential relationship with European sites and their conservation objectives, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that there is no potential for likely significant effects on any European sites, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 above.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the application for consent for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Appendix I

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (see ***Figure 1***).

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	**Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site**
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	
Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209] [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) NPWS (2018) *Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209].* Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 3.6km south of the proposed development
Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122] [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6130] *Calaminarian* grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* [6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [1355] Otter *Lutra lutra* NPWS (2017) *Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SAC 002122.* Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.	*c.* 5.6km south of the proposed development
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398] [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior* [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* NPWS (2018) *Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398].* Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 11km north-west of the proposed development
South Dublin Bay SAC [000210] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	*c.* 11.5km east of the proposed development

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
NPWS (2013) *Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210.* Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	
Knocksink Wood SAC [000725] [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91E0] Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 13.5km south-east of the proposed development
Red Bog, Kildare SAC [000397] [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs *NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Red Bog, Kildare SAC 000397. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*	*c.* 14.7km south-west of the proposed development site
North Dublin Bay SAC [000206] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1310] *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2190] Humid dune slacks [1395] Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* NPWS (2013) *Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206.* Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 15km north-east of the proposed development
Special Protection Area (SPA)	
Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040] [A098] Merlin *Falco columbarius* [A103] Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* NPWS (2018) *Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040].* Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 7.3km south-east of the proposed development
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024] [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A130] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A137] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [A141] Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A143] Knot *Calidris canutus* [A144] Sanderling *Calidris alba*	*c.* 11.5km east of the proposed development

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Proposed Development Site
[A149] Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A162] Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A179] Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A192] Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* [A193] Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* [A194] Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds NPWS (2015) *Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024*. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063] [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) NPWS (2018) *Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063].* Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 14.1km south-west of the proposed development
North Bull Island SPA [004006] [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A048] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A052] Teal *Anas crecca* [A054] Pintail *Anas acuta* [A056] Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A130] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A140] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A141] Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A143] Knot *Calidris canutus* [A144] Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A149] Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A156] Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A160] Curlew *Numenius arquata* [A162] Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A169] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [A179] Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A999] Wetlands & Waterbirds NPWS (2015) *Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006.* Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	*c.* 15km north-east of the proposed development